

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 EA-06 ISO-00 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-06 RSC-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 271513

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA

SUBJECT: KHMER CREDENTIALS AT 29TH UNGA

1. WITH ADOPTION OF ASEAN RESOLUTION, REMAINING HURDLE TO FULLY SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME ON CAMBODIA AT 29TH UNGA IS POSSIBLE CHALLENGE TO KHMER REPUBLIC'S CREDENTIALS WHEN CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT IS SUBMITTED LATER THIS MONTH. IF SUCCESSFUL, SUCH A CHALLENGE COULD LEAD TO EXCLUSION OF KHMER REPUBLIC FROM REMAINDER OF GA AND SET VERY HARMFUL PRECEDENT FOR CAMBODIAN CREDENTIALS QUESTIONS IN UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. WE THEREFORE REGARD DEFEAT OF ANY SUCH CHALLENGE AS HIGHLY IMPORTANT.

2. ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD THEREFORE MAKE STRONG PITCH FOR HOST GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT IN OPPOSING OR ABSTAINING
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ON ANY CHALLENGE TO KHMER REPUBLIC'S CREDENTIALS. YOU

SHOULD EXPRESS DISAPPOINTMENT WITH HOST GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE ON KHMER REPRESENTATION ISSUE (AS SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPHS 5-8 BELOW), AND MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS.

3. (A) CREDENTIALS VERIFICATION TRADITIONALLY VIEWED BY MOST UN MEMBERS AS TECHNICAL MATTER; AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, (B) SUPPORTING A CHALLENGE TO KHMER REPUBLIC'S CREDENTIALS WOULD BE CONTRARY TO SPIRIT AND LETTER OF RESOLUTION 3238 (XXIX) JUST ADOPTED BY THE GA. THE RESOLUTION, WHICH CALLS FOR NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE KHMER PARTIES, STATES IN OPERATIVE PARA 3: QUOTE DECIDES NOT RPT NOT TO PRESS FOR ANY FURTHER ACTION UNTIL MEMBER STATES HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL. UNQUOTE. ANY EFFORT TO REJECT KHMER CREDENTIALS WOULD BE JUST SUCH "FURTHER ACTION."

4. FYI. CHALLENGE TO KHMER CREDENTIALS AT 28TH UNGA FAILED 50 TO 55 (US) WITH 17 ABSTENTIONS. GABON VOTED TO REJECT THE CREDENTIALS; KENYA AND NIGERIA ABSTAINED AND ZAIRE WAS ABSENT. END FYI. IF GABON REFERS TO ITS PREVIOUS POSITION, OR IF YOU DEEM IT ADVISABLE TO RAISE THIS ASPECT, YOU MAY WISH TO SAY: UNLIKE LAST YEAR WHEN DEFERMENT MOVED ORALLY FROM FLOOR (AND SUCCEEDED BY 53 (US) TO 50 WITH 21 ABSTENTIONS), GA THIS YEAR CONSIDERED SUBSTANCE OF KHMER REPRESENTATION AND PRONOUNCED ITS WILL BY FORMAL RESOLUTION, RES 3238 WHICH CALLED FOR NO RPT NO FURTHER ACTION. WE STRONGLY HOPE THESE FOUR COUNTRIES WILL ABIDE BY GA DECISION, AND REGARD THEIR POSITION ON CREDENTIALS MATTER AS HIGHLY IMPORTANT.

5. FOR KINSHASA: RECOGNIZING THAT EMBASSY HAS ALREADY EXPRESSED USG DISAPPOINTMENT ON HOST GOVERNMENT'S KHMER REPRESENTATION PERFORMANCE, REQUEST YOU SAY THAT WE PARTICULARLY REGRET THAT GOZ VOTED DOWN-THE-LINE AGAINST THE ASEAN RESOLUTION DESPITE ASSURANCES TO THE CONTRARY GIVEN US. AND HOPE RES 3238 AND ZAIRIAN REGARD FOR US RELATIONS WITH GOZ WILL PROMPT IT TO ABSTAIN ON CREDENTIALS QUESTION. AT SAME TIME, YOU SHOULD EXPRESS SATISFACTION THAT ZAIRE ABSTAINED ON BOTH KOREAN DRAFT RESOLUTIONS.

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6. FOR LAGOS: YOU SHOULD SAY WE REGRET NIGERIA'S ABSTENTION ON ALL ASPECTS OF KHMER QUESTION DESPITE EARLIER INDICATIONS THAT THEY WOULD SUPPORT THE ASEAN RESOLUTION. WE WERE ALSO VERY DISAPPOINTED AT THE GON'S DECISION TO VOTE FOR THE HOSTILE DRAFT RESOLUTION ON KOREA DESPITE ITS UNCONSTRUCTIVE NATURE AND DESPITE USG WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT THE AFRICAN NUCLEAR FREE ZONE AT

NIGERIA'S REQUEST. WE HOPE VERY MUCH THAT CONSIDERATIONS OUTLINED PARA 2 ABOVE, AND NIGERIAN REGARD FOR US RELATIONS WITH IT WILL PROMPT GON TO OPPOSE ANY CHALLENGE TO KHMER CREDENTIALS.

7. FOR LIBREVILLE: REALIZING THAT EMBASSY HAS ALREADY VOICED USG REGRET ON GOG'S KHMER REPRESENTATION PERFORMANCE, REQUEST YOU SAY THAT WE ARE DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED THAT GOG VOTED DOWN-THE-LINE AGAINST ASEAN RESOLUTION DESPITE ASSURANCES TO THE CONTRARY GIVEN US, AND HOPE RES 3238 AND GABONESE REGARD FOR US TIES WITH GABON WILL PROMPT IT TO ABSTAIN ON CREDENTIALS QUESTION. AT SAME TIME, YOU

SHOULD EXPRESS PLEASURE THAT GABON GAVE FULL SUPPORT TO FRIENDLY RES ON KOREA AND OPPOSED HOSTILE RES.

8. FOR NAIROBI: WE REGRET THAT KENYA ABSTAINED ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE KHMER QUESTION.
WE HOPE
VERY MUCH THAT THE CONSIDERATIONS OUTLINED PARA 2 ABOVE WILL PROMPT KENYA TO OPPOSE ANY CHALLENGE TO KHMER CREDENTIALS.

9. APPROACHES SHOULD BE MADE AT HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVEL OF FOREIGN MINISTRIES AND RESULTS THEREOF REPORTED BY PRIORITY CABLE, INFO USUN AND PHNOM PENH. BEFORE MAKING DEMARCHES, HOWEVER, KINSHASA AND LIBREVILLE SHOULD AWAIT RECEIPT OF SEPARATE BACKGROUND CABLE. GA PLENARY EXPECTED TAKE UP KHMER CREDENTIALS ON DECEMBER 16. INGERSOLL

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